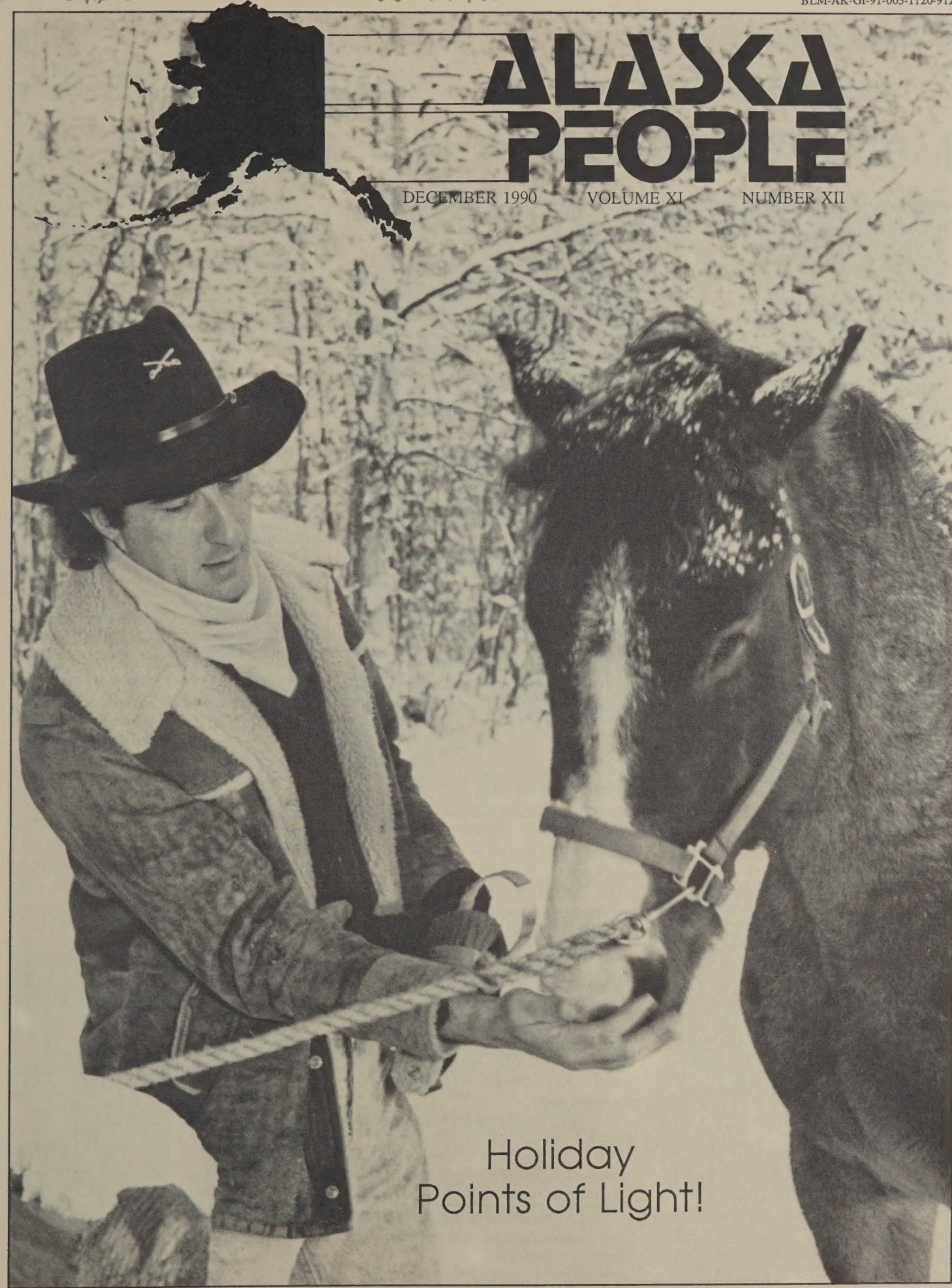


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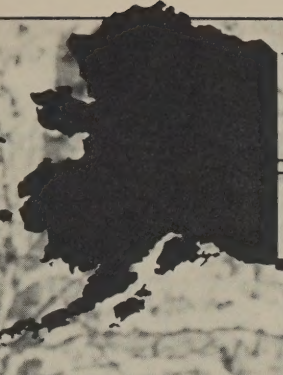
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ALASKA PEOPLE



DECEMBER 1990

VOLUME XI

NUMBER XII

Holiday
Points of Light!

The Hanaayee Corner

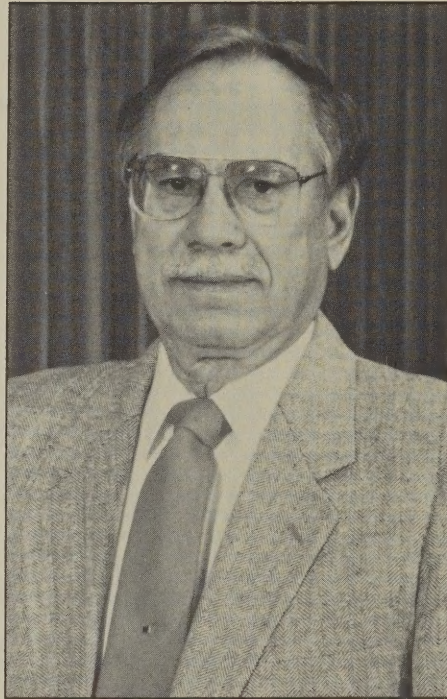
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Christmas! It's a wonderful part of the year, and a time to reflect on sharing and caring. Looking over this issue of Alaska People, my belief in the good and generous nature of BLM employees is strongly confirmed.

These few people provide only a small example of the good and charitable work that BLMers traditionally give back to the communities they are part of. Many of you are involved in many ways to support your churches, schools and communities. Alaska seems to call forth great warmth and sharing, and I thank each of you for this.

Through meetings and discussions with many of you, I have some sense of the scope of issues we face. They are many and varied, as well as quite complex. However, they have a great deal in common with issues the BLM faces in the lower 48. That is, they put forward a major challenge to us to provide sound multiple use management for public lands in our stewardship. This challenge will continue to require from all of us a dedication to the ideals of public service. Your actions, both on a personal level, and on a professional level, have shown your commitment to these ideals.

The ambience of Alaska is fascinating. The mystique of this state is a real phenomenon, and readily lends itself to Alaskan individuality. It is a wonderful place, and my wife Marlene and I truly appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to be here. This Christmas season, with snow on the mountains and moose in the yard, will be a special one for us.



Next year promises to be a productive and challenging one for BLM. We will continue to build on the fine work you've done this year and before. New opportunities will arise, and the importance of BLM natural resource management will continue to be vital to Alaska.

As we enjoy this special season of the year, I would like to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work. Marlene and I would also like to express our appreciation for the welcome you have extended to us. Please, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ed Spang
State Director

*Pronounced ha nie' yee, hanaayee
is Koyukon Athabaskan for "reporter"
or "one who talks."*

Kay Kletka Teaches Adults to Read and Write

by Rob McWhorter

Volunteering to teach English as a second language gives land law examiner Kay Kletka of ASO's Minerals Division a chance to contribute to her community year-round.

Working with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Kletka holds her classes in donated church classrooms on Tuesday nights. Her classes, usually two hours long, are focused on bringing her students up to a sixth grade level of proficiency in reading, spelling, grammar and math.

The volunteer teaching program with which Kletka is involved is sponsored by an Anchorage church association and is aimed at an estimated population of 25,000 foreign-born people in the Anchorage bowl. Kletka became aware of the program through her church.

Among the nationalities Kletka has taught are Polish, Korean, Mexican and Santo Domingan. "The feeling of satisfaction you get when you see the dawning of understanding come into the faces of these folks is something money cannot buy," says Kletka.

"America is a wonderful place of opportunity and I feel good contributing a tiny bit toward helping these people get access to that opportunity. It's also a great chance to get acquainted with interesting people from different cultures."



Kay Kletka

Lt. Jerry McGee - Cavalry Officer for the 124th Cavalry Explorer Post

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Dressed in a dark blue uniform with yellow suspenders and a yellow stripe down the sides of his jeans, cavalry officer Lt. Jerry McGee fed his horse extra grain to compensate for the cold Alaskan weather.

"When I was growing up, all I wanted to be was a cowboy or a logger," he said. To that end, he majored in forestry and range management at Utah State University, with studies in animal behavior.

During his youth, his dad had made sure there were always horses for the kids, along with plenty of space to ride. "I learned a lot from taking care of those horses. Being an advisor with the Eagle Scout Troup Cavalry gives me a chance to share that knowledge with young men around Fairbanks who haven't had the chance to own their own horses."

Joining a unit patterned after the 1890s horse-mounted cavalry of the Old West has been a real treat for Lieutenant McGee, a realty specialist for the Steese/White Mountains District.

The district was the first in BLM to sponsor a Boy Scout troop. When the first BLM wild horse adoption in Fairbanks was being processed, McGee was appointed wild horse compliance monitor for the Steese/White district.

McGee spent a lot of his own time with the adoption and the subsequent transportation of the horses to Alaska. He helped drive the truck and horse trailer with the four wild horses from Colorado to Alaska. He had already decided to join the troop as an advisor by the time Happy, Alvarez, Scooter and Adolph arrived in Fairbanks and were



McGee adjusts the bridle of Happy, one of four BLM wild horses adopted earlier this year by the 124th Cavalry Explorer Post at Fairbanks. (photo by Dan Gullickson)

handed over to the 124th Cavalry Explorer Post.

"The best time to have a horse is in your teen years," he says, "when you're ready to take on responsibility." Young men between 14 and 20 years old can join the troop, and they don't have to own a horse to join. The acquisition of the four wild horses brought the troop's stable up to 10.

Through the cavalry troop's activities, the Explorers learn horsemanship and how to care for the horses through workshops and hands-on practice. They also concentrate on early military history,

the history of firearms, and outdoor skills.

McGee works with the cavalry troop several times a week and on weekends, helping with trail rides, drills and hauling horses to the boy scout summer camp so other boy scouts can ride.

McGee sees volunteering for the cavalry as not only a source of self-satisfaction, but as another way to help BLM projects. "One goal we have is to identify and develop horse trails in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

"I'm looking forward to a busy summer next year."

Doug Dickinson, State Director for MARS

Cadastral electronics mechanic Doug Dickinson is state director for the Air Force's Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) in Alaska. As an important part of ham radio, MARS provides radio support for Air Force emergencies such as search and rescue efforts and provides backup communications support for remote sites.

If a remote radar site loses satellite communication, MARS radio operators are the backups. The operators would take coordinates, radio them to Boulder, Colorado, and twenty minutes later notify the site whether the blip on the screen is friend or foe.

Dickinson, who has been with MARS since 1972, coordinates affiliate members throughout the state. In an emergency, he and his 30-90 volunteer operators would supply radio communications. If there were a large earthquake and telephone communications were disrupted, MARS operators could relay emergency messages to relatives or emergency agencies in the Lower 48.

MARS is divided into: 1) licensed amateurs who donate their time, and 2) a few support members who work full-time. The nearest support member is located at McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Washington.

MARS volunteers are often able to get through to remote sites when no one else is available. Dickinson and his volunteers keep their radios on every night and on weekends. Each operator must handle radio traffic a minimum of 12 hours per quarter.

In recent weeks the group has been relaying messages to loved ones involved in Operation Desert Shield. The messages are transmitted to McChord, then on to headquarters at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and from there to Saudi Arabia.



Cadastral's Doug Dickinson relays a message via MARS.

Dickinson spends about 12 hours a week working on MARS-related work and another 14 hours a week with amateur radio emergency services on their Iceworm Network sponsored by the State of Alaska emergency services.

The "Iceworm Net" is a digital radio interconnect allowing users in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Homer and Kodiak to communicate with each other. The system allows emergency and priority health and welfare traffic and logistics of search and rescue to flow between major cities without clogging up the public telecom systems which during times of emergency quickly become bogged down.

Ask Dickinson just about anything about short wave radios and electronics and he'll be able to tell you. He's been working in the business and volunteering his services for a long time.

CFC Goes Over the Top!

\$35,123.44 was raised in this year's Combined Federal Campaign, exceeding the goal of \$34,000. CFC contributions are especially important because public funding of charitable organizations has been reduced.

Thanks to this year's coordinator and keyworkers, Kamilah Rasheed, Lynn Lewis, Louie Doores, Gene Ervine, Ed Cutler, Terry Hassett, Betty Adams, Betty Roseberry, Pam Green and Paula Price, for helping make this campaign a success.

Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle and Holli McClain are Tok Emergency Medical Technicians

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

BLM personnel assigned to field stations often find themselves becoming an integral part of their local community. Small communities depend on resident volunteers to provide emergency medical services, because they are so far from the population centers of the state.

The 1,200 people who live in the Tok area are 200 miles from the nearest hospital in Fairbanks. The 10 to 15 members of the volunteer Tok Emergency Medical Technician Association serve a 5,400 square-mile area that includes the communities of Tok, Chicken, Tetlin, Northway, Dot Lake, Mentasta and Tanacross all with one ambulance.

Two members of the association are Tok BLMers Holli McClain and Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle.

McClain, an outdoor recreation planner, is certified as an EMT I. O'Reilly-Doyle is an EMT II. She certified as an EMT shortly after arriving in Tok in 1988, and upgraded to an EMT II last spring by taking an advanced course.

Both volunteers had previous first aid training, but felt a need for advanced training. When they responded to a tour bus accident on the Taylor Highway near Eagle in 1987, they realized that they



Holli McClain (left) and Kathy O'Reilly Doyle are prepared for any emergency as certified EMTs for the community of Tok.

needed to improve their skill level. That accident showed clearly that in a remote setting, chances were great that they could be the first to arrive at an accident scene where people would need life-saving treatment.

The Alaska State Troopers in Tok activate the EMS system. Volunteers are on call for 24-hour shifts an average of seven days a month. They also respond to additional calls when available. Calls can be for transporting a person with a broken arm, giving first aid to victims of motor vehicle accidents, or possibly a bus accident causing multiple injuries.

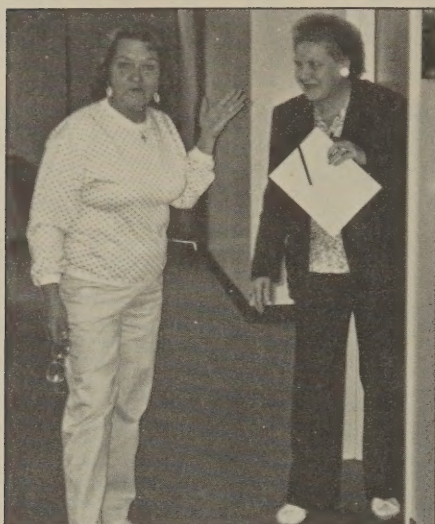
If an individual needs more advanced treatment than is available at the Tok Clinic, the EMT will either fly with the patient to Fairbanks or transport them with the ambulance.

Certifying as an EMT I requires completion of a 110-hour class and passing a National Register exam, a State of Alaska exam and a four-hour practical exam.

A minimum of 48 hours of continuing medical education is required every other year to recertify. One of the primary classes needed is Wilderness EMT certification, which focuses on providing medical assistance in remote areas where an ambulance is not readily available. Other continuing education classes needed are the incident command system, extended care and overland transport.

By keeping their certification and training current, McClain and O'Reilly-Doyle feel they will be better prepared to handle emergencies encountered in remote settings like the Fortymile Region.

Micki & Mary: BLMers Who Just Wouldn't Quit!



Mary Bonin (left) and Micki Smith

by Teresa McPherson

Meet Micki and Mary, two of BLM's most experienced volunteers. Both are retired BLMers with many years of federal experience.

Mary Bonin worked as a paralegal for the Division of Conveyances until she retired in 1986. She then went to work full time for Missing Children of America, a nationwide organization she co-founded in 1981.

Bonin helped write the bylaws and articles of incorporation, and now serves as a consultant for Missing Children, in addition to her volunteer duties at BLM's Branch of KCS Adjudication. "I've always loved land law," she says. "BLM was the third federal agency I worked for, and by far the best, particularly for women. And volunteering is a way of staying in touch with what's happening at BLM."

Micki Smith retired in 1989 following a federal career spanning 33 years, including several years as a Native allotment specialist for BLM. She also worked for BLM's Riverside District Office in California. "BLM was good to me," says Smith. "I've always loved the work. And volunteering keeps my mind active—and keeps me from being a couch potato!" Smith is currently working as adjudicator for the Branch of Southwest Adjudication.

The two busy retirees have a very special friendship. Both share the same birthday and are about the same age, although Bonin says, "Mick's the spring chick!"

After retiring, they spent a year together traveling down the ALCAN

Highway and across the United States in a motorhome, covering 43 states and 20,000 miles in ten months. "And we still have our hair!" laughs Smith. The two panned for gold along the ALCAN, played the slot machines at Vegas, watched a space shuttle launched at Cape Canaveral, and played endless Yahtzee when it was time for a rest. "People couldn't believe it—two old broads driving around the country!" laughs Smith.

What did their children think of these two retirees cavorting around the country on their own? "They thought it was great!" says Bonin. "We'd call and they'd say 'Where are you this time?'"

Even good times can wear you down after awhile, and eventually the two turned the RV back to Alaska. "It was time to quit," says Bonin. "But neither of us could have done it on our own."

Fortunately for BLM, these two couldn't rest for long, and soon found themselves back at BLM as volunteers. "We knew about the latest budget crunch, and thought maybe we could help," says Smith.

Micki Smith and Mary Bonin are indeed two very special "Points of Light."

Cubmaster C.T. Vaughan

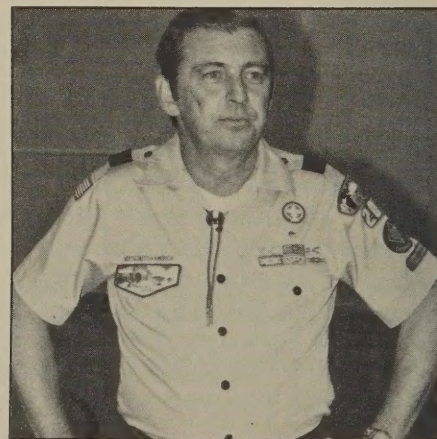
Scouting has always been part of Cadastral editorial assistant C.T. Vaughan's life. "As a boy I really enjoyed Boy Scouts and eventually reached the Eagle Scout Rank. As an adult, and father of two Boy Scouts, it only seemed natural to give back to the program," says Vaughan. And he's been giving back for 30 years.

He is currently Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 204. The Cubs meet every Wednesday night at Ptarmigan Elementary School in Muldoon. Teaching 32 boys, ages 6-11, arts and crafts and working community

projects with the boys keeps him busy. "During the summer we take them out camping at least once a month."

Prior to being Cubmaster, he spent the past 28 years as a Scoutmaster instructing 11-18 year olds.

"Cub and Boy Scouting develops character. The organization teaches boys how to get along as a team," says Vaughan. "Scouting helps boys develop new skills, gain self-confidence and provides adventure. It is dedicated to bringing out the best in people."



Longland helps the blind help themselves



by Jane Mangus

Micki Longland, computer assistant in the Branch of User Support/Telecommunications Support, serves on the board of the Alaska Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind. She's a strong advocate for the organization, which she says is "blind people helping themselves."

Although you'd never suspect when you first meet her, Micki herself is legally blind. She suffers from childhood-onset diabetes, and says, "After 15 or 20 years, diabetics lose vision. A few years ago I woke up one morning blind. I was terrified. My boyfriend got me to contact the federation and state agencies, and they referred me to the Center for Blind Adults."

At first she just dropped out of things. But with the help of these organizations and agencies, she's working, taking care of herself and helping other blind people.

She has served as Treasurer for the Alaska chapter of the National Federation of the Blind, has represented the Alaska chapter at several national conventions and has served on the advisory committee to the board for the Alaska chapter.

She meets with blind people who need help, refers them to sources of help, and encourages them to help themselves. "The Federation of the Blind wants to help newly blind people develop daily living skills," says Longland. "One of its important functions is to put them in touch with other people who are going through the same problems they are."

Through the federation they find they can attend meetings, meet new friends, get help on the job or with finding a job, sign up for talking books, and do such things as learn braille.

She says people who are blind get irritated when well-meaning but uninformed people go ahead and do things "for" blind people without bothering to consult them. One of the things the federation did that she's proud of was to get Mayor Tony Knowles to remove the beepers on crosswalks. The beeping noise prevented blind people from being able to hear traffic noises that enable the blind to judge when it would be safe to cross the street!

Over the past three years, Longland has talked to and helped many blind people to find their way in the community, showing them what options are open to them for counselling, financial help, training, learning alternative techniques for everyday living, finding health and home care, and job hunting.



Elizabeth Carew is Surrogate Parent Volunteer Advocate

by Rob McWhorter

What happens when a handicapped child in school runs into a problem and the parents are not available to assist school officials in resolving it? Who will take the part of a concerned parent in these cases?

Elizabeth Carew, land law examiner for the Alaska State Office Division of Conveyance Management, is a volunteer "surrogate parent." Surrogate parents are appointed when no parent can be identified or found, or if the child is a ward of the State.

According to Carew, "I could be called in if a child might be identified as handicapped. There has to be complete agreement between the school teachers, counselor and myself before testing or subsequent special treatment can proceed." Every three months, the status of the case is reviewed by the people involved.

"The feeling of having helped one of these youngsters is a special payoff for me," said Carew. "The bureaucracy and the school setting can be very intimidating for these kids."

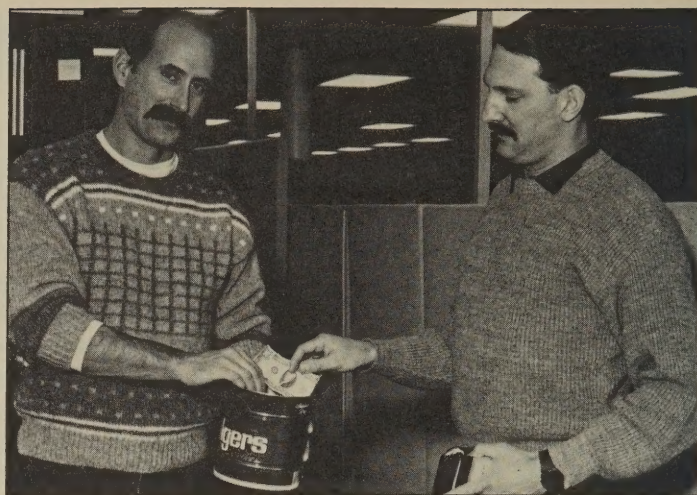
AFS Employees Create Scholarship Fund

by Sue Mitchell

Alaska Fire Service employees are sponsoring a scholarship of up to \$750 for a University of Alaska student in natural resources or business administration. Recipients will come from one of the villages in the area AFS protects.

The idea came from Chief of the Fire Suppression Specialists Dave Dash. "I thought we could do something to help these kids go to school and encourage them to major in natural resources," said Dash. "The village and regional corporations need people who know about land management."

The University of Alaska Foundation administers the scholarship, and students apply to the university.



Dave Dash (left) collects a scholarship donation from AFS staff officer Joe Ribar.

The scholarship is an attempt to encourage students to pursue natural resources management, which could lead them into fire management. AFS employees care enough about this to donate part of their paychecks.

He Helps Kids Learn Skill and Showbiz

by Jane Mangus

It's like being headmaster for a bunch of budding Dallas Cowgirls! John Miller, a computer mechanic in the IRM Telecommunications Support Section, runs the Northern Lights Baton Corps for a group of 8-year-old girls and up.

How did Miller ever get started doing this? Well, his wife, Rosemary, is a talented choreographer and his daughter LaShonda, 16, was state champion baton twirler for three years—1986 through '88. "She's good!" says Miller proudly.

So nowadays the whole family works on developing the corps. Rosemary choreographs and helps LaShonda, who coaches and also choreographs. John makes the business arrangements, teaches basic twirling and the various kinds of twirls. "My youngest daughter—she's 12—also helps the kids practice the routines. She's better than I am; but I used to be better than all of 'em!" Miller says he learned how to do the twirling when his oldest daughter learned. "I learned so I could teach her right at home."

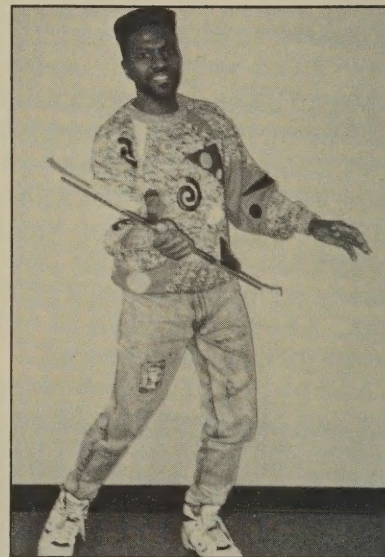
"It's fun," says Miller. "And it teaches the kids a skill they can use in college—you can get a scholarship for baton twirling." He says the kids also learn discipline, the importance of appearance and good grooming, physical coordination, and how to per-

form in a group.

"It gives them a chance to perform while they're young," he adds.

One of Miller's most important jobs is lining up the events in which they can strut their stuff. Right now the corps is practicing for a performance at the Children's Peace Conference, which will be held at the Anchorage Performing Arts Center on December 31.

Miller is just starting a drill team for boys 8 to 12—the same age as his son. He'll teach them left and right, then the commands, then get them to work. Everything's choreographed. "We're particular how we want to come across," he says. "One of the most important things we stress is personal appearance and good grooming."



John Miller



Ken Hunt Manages "Abbott-O-Rabbit" Girls Fast-Pitch Team

by Rob McWhorter

Ken Hunt, environmental protection specialist for the Branch of Pipeline Monitoring, has been a part-time but very successful coach of girl's softball teams for a number of years.

Hunt manages the Abbott-O-Rabbit (South Hillside area) girls fast-pitch team. Hunt spends about 25 hours a week with team activities during the short summer season. In the winter months, he organizes softball clinics for the young ladies.

Hunt's teams are classified as "Major" Little League softball teams, and are for girls 12 years old and younger. The youngsters take their game very seriously, with one pitcher (Hunt's daughter) having a measured 47 mile-per-hour fastball. "The level of competition in the Anchorage area and Alaska in general is really high," says Hunt. "Some of the Alaska teams are tougher than the statewide all-star teams we play in the regional tournaments."

This extracurricular community service provides its own special rewards for the youngsters as well as Hunt. "The girls give 125% effort and to share with them the thrill of victory and the anguish of defeat is a real personal reward for me." Hunt's team enjoyed more of the sweet taste of winning this year with a won-lost record of 17 - 1. They won the Anchorage bowl area tournament and went on to beat the Juneau all-stars for the state championship. Hunt's Alaska team was turned back by Oregon and Montana at this year's regionals last August.

Bruce Ockrassa is Chugiak Volunteer Fireman



Cartographer Bruce Ockrassa reports for duty as Chugiak volunteer fireman.

A BLM cartographer by day, a Chugiak volunteer fireman nights and weekends, Bruce Ockrassa and the rest of his five-person crew are on call one week in four to fight fires or provide emergency medical assistance in the Peters Creek/Chugiak area.

"Day or night, whenever there's an emergency, the telephone rings at the homes of all 33 volunteers," says Ockrassa. "If it's your on-call week, or a major emergency, you go out."

Since joining a year ago, he has been called out to vehicle accidents, structure fires and medical emergencies.

His area includes four volunteer fire stations scattered between the north Eagle River entrance and the Knik River bridge.

Every Wednesday night the volunteers meet for medical or fire training, or a business meeting. "It's absolutely necessary to have a volunteer fire department in rural areas," says Ockrassa. "We've all got to help each other."

*Happy
Holidays*

Dixie Swanson Helps Girls Develop into Responsible Adults

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Having an 11-year-old daughter who needed social interaction was just one incentive for Dixie Swanson to take the helm of a girls activity program at her church last year. Swanson also likes working with young people and using her organizational skills.

As administrative technician for the Arctic District, Swanson is responsible for the smooth flow of paperwork in the office and for tracking the district budget.

The duties of coordinator for the Missionette program for the First Assembly of God church in Fair-

Swanson also makes sure that the girls in the program have completed their requirements for activity badges. The Missionettes program is structured similar to the girl scouts, only church-oriented. The four levels of the program are grouped roughly according to age, from three to 13 years old. "There are presently about 60 girls in the program, along with nine leaders and a couple of helpers," Swanson said. "They work through the workbooks at their own pace, but the three lower levels, Daisies, Prims and Rainbows, usually take two years. The Star level, from fourth to eighth grade, takes four years."

As the girls complete the four stages of the Star program, they achieve a well-rounded education in personal skills. They qualify for activity badges in boating, canoeing, cooking, self-development, career, community service and many other subjects. They also must pass a test from a review board on Bible knowledge. Graduation night is a special event, as the girls are crowned Honor Stars, and pass to an advanced program.

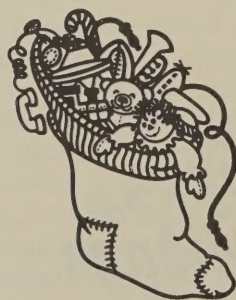
This past summer, Swanson accompanied the Star group as they completed badges for canoeing, boating and biking. She also helped them in a very successful car wash that raised funds to buy new uniforms for all of the girls.

"I get a great sense of satisfaction from helping the girls develop into responsible, confident adults, and the girls needed a coordinator to continue the program. I'm more than happy to be involved," Swanson said.



photo by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Swanson listens as a young girl reads aloud to fellow Missionettes.



banks are similar, only more extensive. Swanson is responsible for raising, spending and tracking a budget of about \$4,000 a year. She ensures proper coordination of all activities, completes and submits required paperwork, recruits teachers (called sponsors), and schedules meetings and activities for the Missionette program.

Appause

Sustained Superior Performance Award

Lance Lockard, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Donald Weber, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Timothy Quincy, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Steven Schmitt, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Christopher Wilita, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Gayle Ellis, Secretary, ASO Division of Support Services

Rachelle Maiorana, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Rebecca Johnson, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Robin Middleton, Clerk Typist, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Angela Nichols, Clerk Typist, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Rita Wehrman, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Constance Van Horn, Supervisory Land Law Examiner

Daniel Webb, Supervisory Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Ronald Biggs, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Support Services

Dorothy Tideman, Navigable Waters Specialist, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Special Act Award

John Douts, Supervisory Cartographic Technician, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

Quality Step Increase Award

Paul Moss, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

On-the-Spot Cash Award

Frankie Pederson, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Eve Heavner, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

November Retirements

Robert W. Arndorfer, Chief, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey

William D. Athas, Support Services Supervisor, ASO Division of Support Services

Tula G. Belton, Budget Analyst, Fairbanks Division of Support Services

Robert G. Boyce, Supervisory Civil Engineer, Fairbanks Division of Support Services

Katherine R. Bruns, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Billy E. Butts, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, Steese/White Mountains District

Betty A. Chamberlain, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Viola R. McCollum, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Albert L. McCoy, Electronics Mechanic, Fairbanks Division of Information Systems/Communications

Welcome Aboard (November 1990)

Sandra Wallace, Staffing Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services

Mike O'Neill, Classification Assistant, ASO Division of Support Services

Moving On (November 1990)

Rebecca Garner, Supply Technician, ASO Division of Support Services

Larry Woodard, Electronics Mechanic, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

Linda A. Ricketts, Computer Specialist, ASO Division of Information Resources Management

Potato Patch BLMers

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

You've heard about Cabbage Patch dolls—how about Potato Patch BLMers? Four BLM employees from northern Alaska recently demonstrated their good will and their green thumbs by helping to produce 200 pounds of baking potatoes and by donating them to the Food Bank in Fairbanks.

Carol Nicholson, Connie Monroe, Billy Butts, and Jim Murray, manager of the Fairbanks Support Center, all belong to NARFE, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. The four BLMers joined other NARFE members in planting seed potatoes in a community garden plot on the banks of the Chena River near downtown Fairbanks.

Murray did most of the rototilling of the plot, and the others joined in the planting.

Harvesting took only one afternoon as everyone dug in with shovels and spading forks. As a reward



photo by Dan Gullickson

(left to right) Billy Butts, Jim Murray, Carol Nicholson and Connie Monroe.

for themselves, the potato growers took a few bakers to a potato potluck, where they outdid themselves with toppings.

"This was a very easy project," said Butts. "We had a good site, good weather, and a long growing season. And we produced some delicious baking potatoes that will help feed many of the needy families of Fairbanks."

The Food Bank accepts donations of food items or money from individuals and businesses, and distributes food baskets to needy families in the area.

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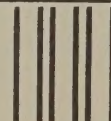
On the Cover:

Steese/White Mountains realty specialist Jerry McGee gives adopted BLM horse Happy a welcome handful of grain. McGee is a lieutenant with the 124th Cavalry Explorer Boy Scout Post, sponsored by the Steese/White District. (photo by Dan Gullickson)



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